

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 10-13, 15-22 and 30-37 are pending. By this amendment, claim 8 is amended for clarity. In particular, claim 8 is amended to clarify that the claimed ceramic laminated substrate consists of a first ceramic substrate having a first thickness, and a second ceramic substrate provided with the opening and having a second thickness larger than the first thickness, the second ceramic substrate being laminated on the first ceramic substrate, as shown in Fig. 1(b) and Fig. 11. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendment to claim 8 is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance, for all the reasons discussed herein; and (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search for consideration. Furthermore, as discussed above, the amendment is merely for clarity.

Regarding the rejoinder of claims 30-37, as discussed during October 27 telephone interview, under MPEP §821.04, if Applicants elect claims directed to a product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims which include all the limitations of an allowable product claim will be rejoined.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8, 10-13 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Negita (GB 2002-955) in view of Nagai (U.S. Patent No. 4,405,875). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Negita does not disclose or suggest a housing having a first ceramic substrate having a first thickness, and a second ceramic substrate provided with an opening and having a second thickness larger than the first thickness, the second ceramic substrate being laminated on the first ceramic substrate, and an edge portion of the opening and a periphery of the opening being metallized. In fact, as admitted by the Office Action, Negita does not disclose any opening in the housing 8.

Furthermore, Nagai does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 8 missing from Negita. In fact, as shown in Figs. 13-20 of Nagai, the windows 139, 179, 189, 199 and 209 are glass windows. These windows are in no way equivalent to openings in the housing comprising an edge portion and the periphery being metalized, as recited in claim 8.

Contrary to the windows of Nagai, the opening 58 of the application, for example, are throughholes with a metalized edge and periphery. See Fig. 12 of the application, for example. Because these openings are throughholes, it avoids the high material cost of glass, and the production of fine dust from glass exerted which adversely affects the properties of the quartz resonator. See page 2, lines 1-3 of the application, for example.

Furthermore, Nagai also does not disclose or suggest a first ceramic substrate having a first thickness, and a second ceramic substrate provided with the opening and having a second thickness larger than the first thickness, the second ceramic substrate being laminated on the first ceramic substrate, as recited in claim 8. In fact, Nagai does not show any laminated substrate where the substrate provided with the window has a larger thickness. See Figs. 13A and 30 of Nagai, for example.

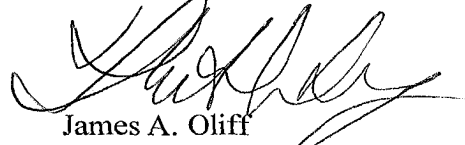
Accordingly, even if combined, Negita and Nagai do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 8. Because claims 1-6, 10-13 and 15-22 depend from claim 8, claims 1-6, 10-13 and 15-22 also would not have been obvious over Negita and Nagai.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-6, 8, 10-13 and 15-22 would not have been obvious over Negita and Nagai. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6, 8, 10-13 and 15-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and due allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Thu Anh Dang
Registration No. 41,544

JAO:TAD/slm

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400